National Highway No. 8 between Bombay and Vap is already having two-lane carriageway, except a strech of 3.00 Km near Bombay which is four-lane. The present volume of traffic is more than the capacity of the road.

(c) Annual Programme 1991-92 includes provision for 4-laning of further 65 Km length of National Highway 8 between Bombay and Vapi subject to availability of funds and overall priorities.

Seventh Cargo Berth at Kandla Fort

2586. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the work relating to construction of 7th Cargo Berth at Kandla Port is in process ;

(b) if so, what is the amount of money that has been spent on this so far ;

(c) whether the work was to be completed in the month of October, 1991; and

(d) what is the extent of work that still remains to be carried out and the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 2376 lakhs has been spent upto the and of November, 1991.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The work amounting to Rs. 859 lakhs including the work relating to dredging at a cost of Rs. 589 lakhs still remains to be carried out. The works have been delayed on account of failure of 87 piles during execution.

Funds for the National Highways

2587. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BERLA : Will the Ministr of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to financial constraints the Government's ambitious programmes for the development and maintenance ©f national highways in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period have received severe blow ;

(b) if so, the details of the allocations made during the current plan period for the developrxent and maintenance of national highways ?

(c) whether a large number of important national highways could not be taken up due to financial constraints; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make available funds for the development and maintenance of national Highways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Since the 8th Five Year Plan is yet to be flnaiised and outlays are not known, it is too early to assess its impact on the development of National Highway During the current Annual Plan 1991-92, there is provision of Rs. 446 crores for. development of National Highways in the budget estimates.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of non-finalisation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Request te treat chipping Minstry as rxpert oriented Industry

2588. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian National Shipowners Association has underlined the need to expand the domestic fleet in order to raise the share in the country's overseas cargo ;

(b) whether the INSA has also urged Government to recognise shipping as export industry since the payment for overseas cargo is done in hard currency;

(c) whether Government propose to liberalise shipping financing rules and regulations to help shipping industry to expand its fleet; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A new Shipping Finance Package is being evolved, the main elements of which include permission to shipowners to use the sale proceeds for fresh acquisition; permission for overseas equity to be used for fresh acquisitions; raising the promoter's contribution for ship purchase; provision of Rupee loan on market related terms; permission fer Joint Venture; cross border leasing

and mortgage of vessel to a Foreign Company for purchase of vessels etc.

Cleaning of Visakhapatnam pert

2589. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY; Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Visakhapatnam port is facing severe pollution problem with sulpher and iron dust content; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: (a) No Sir. There is no severe pollution ia Visakhapatnam Port.

(b) Does not arise.

Suspension of Punjab Roadways Employees

2590. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale arbitrary suspension of employees in Punjab Roadways during the last two years ;

(b) if so, what is the number thereof and whether these suspension are made by such General Managers, who are themselves facing a number of corruption charges and have faced suspensions in the past; and

(c) the details of the such corrupt general managers and the steps Govern ment propose to take to avoid exploita tion and harassment of innocent lower staff consisting of drivers and conductors at the hands of such corrupt officers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Action against officers of Punjab roadways

2591. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a recruitment scandal was busted in Punjab Roadways, Moga in 1986 and Government had considered the case for departmental action against the offieers involved in the scandal;

(b) whether the matter was later dropped vide orders dated the 26th April, *1988* and the culprits instead of punishment were given promotions ;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed in this regard ;

(d) whether the persons involved in the said recruitment scandal have now been found involved in a sensational diesel scandal at Punjab Roadways, office at Nangal; and

(e) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

राष्ट्रीय जलमार्गों का विकास

2592. श्री ईश दत्त यादव : क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या 1990–91 के दौरान पोत परिवहन के लिए राष्ट्रीय जलमार्गों को तीन खण्डों में विकसित किए जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में अब तक किए गए प्रयासों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इनके परिणामस्वरूप लोगों को कौन-कौन सी सुविधायें उपलब्ध होंगी ।

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर) : (क) और (ख) इस समय दो राष्ट्रीय जलमार्ग हैं। वर्ष 1990-91 के दौरान राष्ट्रीय जल-मार्ग (गंगा-भागीरथी-हुगली के इलाहाबाद हल्दिया खंड) पर 1.5 मीटर गहरी और 45 मीटर चौड़ी सतत् नौचालन नहर सुलभ कराने के लिए हल्दिया और बलिया के बीच नाजुक स्थलों पर बन्डालिंग और निकर्षण कार्य किए गए । राष्ट्रीय जलमार्ग (ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी के सैदिया-धुबरी खंड) पर 2.25 मीटर गहरी और 45 मीटर चौड़ी सतत नौचालन नहर सुलभ कराने के लिए धुबरी और कमारी के बीच नाजुक